

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Spanish royals to pay state visit to Britain next year

Madrid.—The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, has welcomed the announcement of a state visit to the United Kingdom from the 8 - 10 of March 2016. "The British government is delighted that Their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain have accepted the invitation from Her Majesty The Queen," said Mr Manley. "This state visit will celebrate not only the long and deep royal and historic ties between our two countries, but also our strong relationship as partners in the European Union, NATO and United Nations. We enjoy close connections in terms of culture, trade, in-

vestment, security and defence. This is an opportunity to celebrate and deepen those links."

This is the first state visit by King Felipe and Queen Letizia to the UK. They will stay at Windsor Castle. The programme will be announced in due course.

The last state visit was when King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia visited in 1986. HM Queen Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh returned with a state visit to Spain in 1988. Since then the Spanish and British royal families have paid a number of formal visits to each other's countries.



STRIKING SYRIA

● Britain joined U.S.-led air strikes against Islamic State in Syria yesterday after parliament gives backing. See Full Report on Page Nine.

Spain's ruling party seen winning election but well short of majority: poll

Madrid.— Spain's ruling People's Party will win a 20 December parliamentary election but fall short of a majority, according to a closely watched official poll which also showed a leap in support for a new reformist party that may play the role of kingmaker.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is struggling to shore up support for his centre-right People's Party (PP) after a four-year term marked by a crushing economic crisis, unpopular austerity measures and unemployment of more than 20 percent. Hard times and disgust with corruption in high places have fuelled the rise of new parties - the liberal, reformist Ciudadanos (Citizens) and the left-wing, anti-austerity Podemos (We can) - breaking the mould of a political system long dominated by the PP and the Socialists.

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